



John Hellerstedt, M.D. Commissioner

January 8, 2018

Happy New Year from the Texas Department of State Health Services—Vital Statistics Section (VSS)! We are looking forward to a strong 2018.

VSS is hard at work implementing the Texas Electronic Vital Events Registrar (TxEVER) system. We are testing TxEVER to ensure a smooth transition from the Texas Electronic Registrar system on January 1, 2019.

VSS will hold several TxEVER events throughout the year. Field Services will resume stakeholder conference calls in January 2018, and will offer training opportunities during our Regional and Annual Conferences. VSS will also offer online trainings on TxEVER, including birth and death registration. Please continue to visit our website for all TxEVER happenings at <a href="https://www.dshs.texas.gov/vs/field/The-TxEVER-Project/">https://www.dshs.texas.gov/vs/field/The-TxEVER-Project/</a>.

Another exciting project we are developing alongside TxEVER is an eLearning on Improving Cause of Death Reporting. This is being developed to assist medical certifiers in writing cause of death statements more accurately. We will be collaborating with medical certifiers across the state and using their feedback in order to achieve continuous improvement in data quality.

Our State Registrar, Dr. Tara Das, has our staff engaged and committed to vital statistics and this is a direct result of her leadership. Our work flow is more efficient and data-driven as can be seen by improved turnaround times on Amendments and other processing requests. VSS is focused on achieving excellent Customer Service, Security, and Data Quality in Vital Records and Vital Statistics. VSS is climbing to new heights.

Thank you all for your continued support, and happy 2018!

Sincerely,

## **Field Services**

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